



## REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

for

Wednesday, April 26, 2006

4:00 P.M. – Council Chamber Boardroom  
and  
5:30 P.M. - Art Pick Council Chambers  
3900 Main Street, Riverside, CA

### CASE REVIEW – 4:00 P.M.

#### Case Review Roll Call

Brewer	Davidson	Garcia	Arreola	Ward	Pearcy	Corral	Castro	Quinto
A	✓	✓	✓	✓	A	✓	✓	✓

✓ = Present    A = Absent

Staff: Pedro Payne, Phoebe Sherron

#### Public Comment

There were no public comments.

#### Commissioner Comments

There were no commissioner comments.

#### Closed Session – Case Reviews

Pursuant to Government Code Section 54957, the Commission adjourned to Closed Session at 4:08 p.m. to discuss issues pertaining to PUBLIC EMPLOYEE PERSONNEL MATTERS.

	CPRC CASE NO.	RPD CASE NO.		CPRC CASE NO.	RPD CASE NO.
1)	05-093	PC-05-283-029	5)	05-112	PC-05-322-282
2)	05-096	PC-05-287-109	6)	05-117	PC-05-343-064
3)	05-108	PC-05-313-146	7)	05-121	PC-05-353-144
4)	05-110	PC-05-319-120	8)	05-124	PC-05-357-050

The Commission recessed at 5:25 P.M. to reconvene in the Council Chambers.

## OPEN SESSION – 5:30 P.M.

The following proceedings have been digitally recorded.  
For copies, please call the CPRC office at (951) 826-5509.

Chairman Davidson led in the Pledge of Allegiance.

### **REGULAR MEETING – ROLL CALL**

Chairman Davidson asked Ms. Sherron to confirm commissioner attendance.

Brewer	Davidson	Garcia	Arreola	Ward	Pearcy	Corral	Castro	Quinto
A	✓	✓	✓	✓	A	✓	✓	✓

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### **Public Comments**

Mr. Rudy Morales said that he was a Human Relations Commission (HRC) member prior to Javier Rosales (former HRC Executive Director). He said that he was also member when HRC instituted LEPAC. He said that he feel it is the responsibility of the Commission to do the things that need to be done; the people in the community aren't going to do it.

### **Role and Function of the CPRC**

Chairman Davidson began by noting that it is important that everyone understands the Commission's boundaries. He turned the meeting over to Executive Director Payne, who reviewed the City Charter sections that speak to boards and commissions. He also reviewed the Commission's duties as outlined in the Charter and Ordinance 6516, which created the Commission.

Chairman Davidson then continued, saying that the Commission is bound by Charter and even though personal feelings may differ, the Commission is still bound by Charter as to what it can do. He noted that citizens should go to Council if they feel Charter should be changed.

Vice-Chair Ward said he feels there is a lot of deception taking place. He said that when RPD gives CPRC a briefing, it makes people think that RPD answers to CPRC, which isn't true. He said that the Commission was put in place with the idea that it would have oversight. He also said that the same people making decisions during and after Tyisha Miller are still making decisions today. He said he hopes that the Commission's advice would have some impact, but he's not sure it does.

Commissioner Quinto said that she understands Vice-Chair Ward's frustration. She applauded citizen attendance and said that the Commission is here to help citizens and that she believes citizens will see changes so that their voices can be heard.

Chairman Davidson read a letter from Chani Beeman (copy attached). In her letter she said that the CPRC must have independent legal council that is not associated with City Attorney's office. She also said that the CPRC should be located outside City Hall to reduce intimidation. She said that the CPRC should work with HRC and that it should refine and strengthen its procedure for recommendations.

Ms. Mary Shelton said that she found the conversation disturbing in that the discussion was more about limitations when the Commission hasn't done much of what it's able to do. She said that the city manager "squashed" on making a decision on the Summer Lane case and she expressed concern over why the City Manager's office isn't doing what it's supposed to be doing. She said the Police Chief "dumped" the case based on a technicality in the CPRC report. She also said that there is no policy in place, as there is in other cities, that compel officers to appear and speak. She said that Council and the City Manager should be held accountable.

Chairman Davidson said that the power is in the people of community and he encouraged citizens to take issues to the elected officials. He said that the CPRC doesn't have the power to change what it does.

Ms. Nanette Pratini said she is willing to do what it takes to change things and is interested in hearing CPRC opinions as to what can be changed.

Commissioner Quinto agreed saying that the community has been instrumental in getting a full time Executive Director for the CPRC.

Commissioner Garcia thanked Ms. Shelton and Ms. Pratini saying that their continued support and assistance will help.

Chairman Davidson said that citizens have more power to make the changes; the CPRC doesn't have the power to make the changes but the people do. He encouraged the public to make their feelings known regarding what they feel the CPRC's limits are and doing something to change those limits.

Mr. Michael Dunn said that the Commission's finding regarding Summer Lane achieved a measure of transparency and asked what can be done to continue to achieve and provide similar transparency. He said he thinks the Charter may need to be changed. He also said the Commission has the right Executive Director. He said he thinks the commissioners are doing a good job, but citizens can help.

Dr. Ron Bailey said it is not the obligation of the people in audience, but the Commission's obligation to get things done. He said he couldn't understand why the Rabb case hasn't been discussed yet. He commented on the "ineffectual non-training" of officers regarding dealing with impaired individuals. He encouraged the Commission to review EMT response procedures.

### **CPRC Committee Membership**

Mr. Paul Chavez expressed concern that when commissioners are replaced, the "city fathers" will appoint new commissioners who are "rubber stampers" rather than people who will speak out. Mr. Chavez also commented about protecting city employees who work for commissions.

Chairman Davidson noted that it is tough to get volunteers, especially those who aren't "rubber stamps." He said it is encouraging to see more citizens in attendance. He said that the Commission hopes to establish better communication much with the community.

Executive Director Payne said that outreach efforts can always be improved. He noted that the Commission got the message when they kept hearing that no one knew about it. In 2005, the CPRC averaged two presentations per month, noting that the outreach needs to continue and improve. He said that in the most recent resident survey it was learned that over 60% of community is aware of the CPRC.

Commissioner Castro thanked the audience for their attendance. He said that the commissioners are working to help the Commission to better communicate with the community. The Commission is "set for good government" and the commissioners want to be a good example. He noted that the Commission needs the help, suggestions, and direction from the community for the community.

Commissioner Corral thanked the members of the audience for coming to the meeting. She said it has been tough, but that she loves being on the Commission, as a citizen and an officer. She said that



members of the public should feel free to contact her and that she will do whatever she can to assist them.

Chairman Davidson also noted that in order to increase the efficiency of the Commission, he was asking that commissioners review officer-involved death (OID) casebooks within 30 days of receipt by the CPRC in order to reduce the amount of time between the incident and a decision. He noted that extensions will be given, but said they should be the exception, not the rule.

Chairman Davidson postponed further discussion on committee appointments or reappointments for a future meeting since two committee chairs were absent.

Executive Director Payne noted that all committees could meet except for Outreach since that committee is short a member, but said that outreach is continuing.

Chairman Davidson asked that if any commissioners were interested in serving on a committee to let him know.

As a side note, Chairman Davidson noted that he met with officers of Riverside Police Officers' Association (RPOA). He said that the meeting went well and that the new president seems to be opening the door for communications between CPRC and RPOA.

### **Approval of Minutes**

Minutes for Approval	Motion	Second	Approve	Oppose	Abstain
February Regular Meeting	Ward	Corral	7	0	0
February 28 Special Meeting	Ward	Corral	6	0	1
March 8 Special Meeting	Arreola	Castro	7	0	0
April 12 Case Review Meeting	Ward	Garcia	6	0	1

### **Executive Director's Report & Comments**

Executive Director Payne reported on the following:

- Thanked audience for attending;
  - feels meetings should be attended this well;
- March regular meeting was cancelled;
- accepted position as full-time CPRC Executive Director;
  - will cover HRC until that position is filled.
- Commission has line of communication with RPD via liaison Capt. Pete Esquivel

### **Committee Reports**

A) Outreach Committee – Brian Pearcy, Chair

- no report – Chair absent

B) Budget Committee – Bob Garcia, Chair

- no meeting in April;
- can meet in May.

C) Policy & Procedure Review Committee - Jack Brewer, Chair

- no report – Chair absent

D) Internal Evaluation Ad-hoc Committee – Jim Ward, Chair

- no meeting;

- in process of obtaining a proposal for a training session from Attorney Michael Gennaco of the Los Angeles County Office of Independent Review.

### **Commissioner Comments**

#### Commissioner Ward

- thanked citizens for attending;
- noted that Commission work can be frustrating;
- refreshing to hear from public;
- asks for continued support and that CPRC will try to make a difference.

#### Commissioner Garcia

- thanked audience and speakers;
- informed Commission and public of the 99th Annual Cinco de Mayo Parade and Fiesta on May 6 and 7 in Casa Blanca;
  - asked for volunteers for parade.

#### Commissioner Arreola

- thanked citizens for attending;
- commented that everyone has a stake in the community and that citizens have part in law enforcement;

#### Chairman Davidson

- said he has an open door and that citizens should feel free to contact him any time;
- said he wants to make a difference and the way to do that is to communicate;
- said he's sure all the commissioners feel the same.

### **Adjournment**

The Commission adjourned at 7:07 PM.

Respectfully submitted,



PHOEBE SHERRON  
Sr. Office Specialist

Item 6

To: Pedro Payne  
Subject: For tonight's CPRC meeting

I apologize for not being able to attend the discussion about the direction and role of the CPRC. This is an important conversation and I hope it continues beyond today's meeting. I've written down some rough ideas to contribute to the conversation. I would be happy to discuss them in person at a future date.

I have long felt and often articulated my concern that the CPRC has not yet developed an identity that reflects true community review of police complaints. The CPRC is often described as "objective arbiters," a description that does not adequately reflect an understanding that they represent a *community perspective* in the complaint process -- a balance to the RPD's law enforcement perspective.

If the CPRC is committed to "neutrality," rather than providing a meaningful community orientation to the review process, they miss the opportunity to raise issues of concern that reflect the needs and expectations of the community. Clearly it will be a biased perspective rather than purely neutral. However, a primary role of the CPRC is to help bring law enforcement and community expectations into closer alignment or at least mutual understanding. How can that role be accomplished if the CPRC remains neutral in their considerations?

After all, it is the community that grants law enforcement the right to enforce our laws, don't we have a similar responsibility to provide input on how those laws are enforced? The CPRC must develop an understanding that balancing the review of complaints with a community perspective is not "anti-police" and that their input, even when they disagree with the police, ultimately supports good policing.

Key elements to the success of the CPRC are political independence, credibility within the community it serves, accessibility to services, and visibility of CPRC efforts and accomplishments.

Suggestions for enhancing those elements:

- The CPRC must have independent legal counsel at the meetings and available when drafting reports and recommendations. The counsel must not be associated with the City Attorney's office.
- The CPRC office staff should be located outside of city hall, perhaps in a community center; to reduce the level of intimidation community members may feel about coming to City Hall to discuss complaints. Meetings could still be held in City Council Chambers to re enforce the connection to City Hall.
- CPRC commissioners and ED should continue to attend as many community meetings and functions as possible to establish credibility and a rapport with community members.
- Exercise and enforce subpoena power when necessary.
- Work with the HRC to promote the availability of CPRC services and reports.
- Refine and strengthen the process for following up on CPRC unimplemented recommendations. What should happen with the RPD says "no" to a CPRC recommendation? What is the role of the City Manager in addressing differing CPRC/RPD review conclusions? Is there, should there be, and appeal to the City Council?

Respectfully submitted,  
chani beeman